

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of

ESCH *ET AL.*

Group Art Unit: 1754

Application Serial No.: 08/870,591

Examiner: HENDRICKSON, S.L.

Filed: June 6, 1997

Title: PRECIPITATED SILICA

February 12, 2004

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.96, 1.97, and 1.98, the applicants request consideration of the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. As these documents are U.S. patents, copies of the cited documents are not enclosed.

The applicants do not waive any rights to appropriate action to establish patentability over the listed documents should they be applied as references against the claims of the present application. This statement should not be construed as a representation that more material information does not exist or that an exhaustive search of the relevant art has been made.

This Information Disclosure Statement is intended to be fully compliant with 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.96, and 1.97. However, should the examiner find any part of its required content to have been omitted, the applicants earnestly solicit prompt notice to that effect, along with additional time under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(f) to enable the applicants to comply fully.

The applicants respectfully request consideration of the cited documents and making the same of record in the prosecution of the above-identified application.

Feb-12-04 13:07 From-PILLSBURY WINTHROP

703-905-2500

T-537 P.011/051 F-252

Inventor(s): ESCH *et al.*
Application No.: 08/870,591
Attorney Docket No.: 021123-0238397

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the issuance of a first official action on the merits following a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). Therefore the applicants believe that no fee is due.

Respectfully submitted,
PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTQ

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Complete if Known

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Application Number | 08/870,591 |
| Filing Date | 06/06/1997 |
| First Named Inventor | ESCH |
| Art Unit | 1754 |
| Examiner Name | Hendrickson, S.L. |
| Attorney Docket Number | 021123-0238397 |

Sheet 1 of 1

File Number 021123-0238397

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

***EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 809. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional).² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04.³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3).⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible.⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language

Translation is attached.
This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEE 37 CFR 1.4(3) COMMUNICATIONS FOR PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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